

# Welcome

COLMAN VISTA RESTORATION



# Friends of Colman Park Vista

COLMAN VISTA RESTORATION



## Founded:

March 18, 2014

## Members:

~20

## Representation:

Mt. Baker, Lakewood,  
Seward Park, Leschi  
communities and beyond

## Involvement:

Steering committee,  
monthly community  
meetings, outreach and  
more



photo courtesy of Friends of Colman Park Vista

# Taking Action

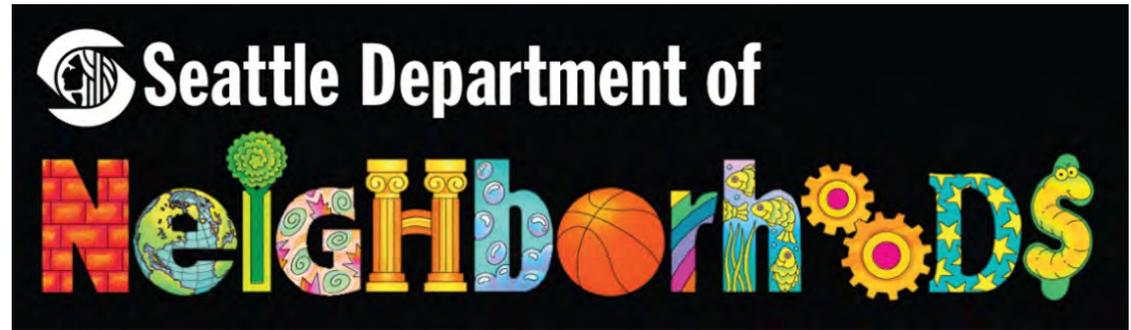
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## Neighborhood Matching Grant

### Objectives

- Public process
- Assessments:
  - Plant Community
  - Slope
- Design Concepts



### Next Steps

- Monday June 6
- Wednesday July 13

### Future Work

- Design Development
- Permitting
- Implementation



photo courtesy of Friends of Colman Park Vista

# Upcoming Meetings

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## 1. Discovery

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

## 2. Vision

Monday, June 6, 2016

## 3. Consensus

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

7:00 – 9:00 PM

St Clement's Church

1501 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S

Seattle, WA 98144

# Objectives

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Improve ecological functionality

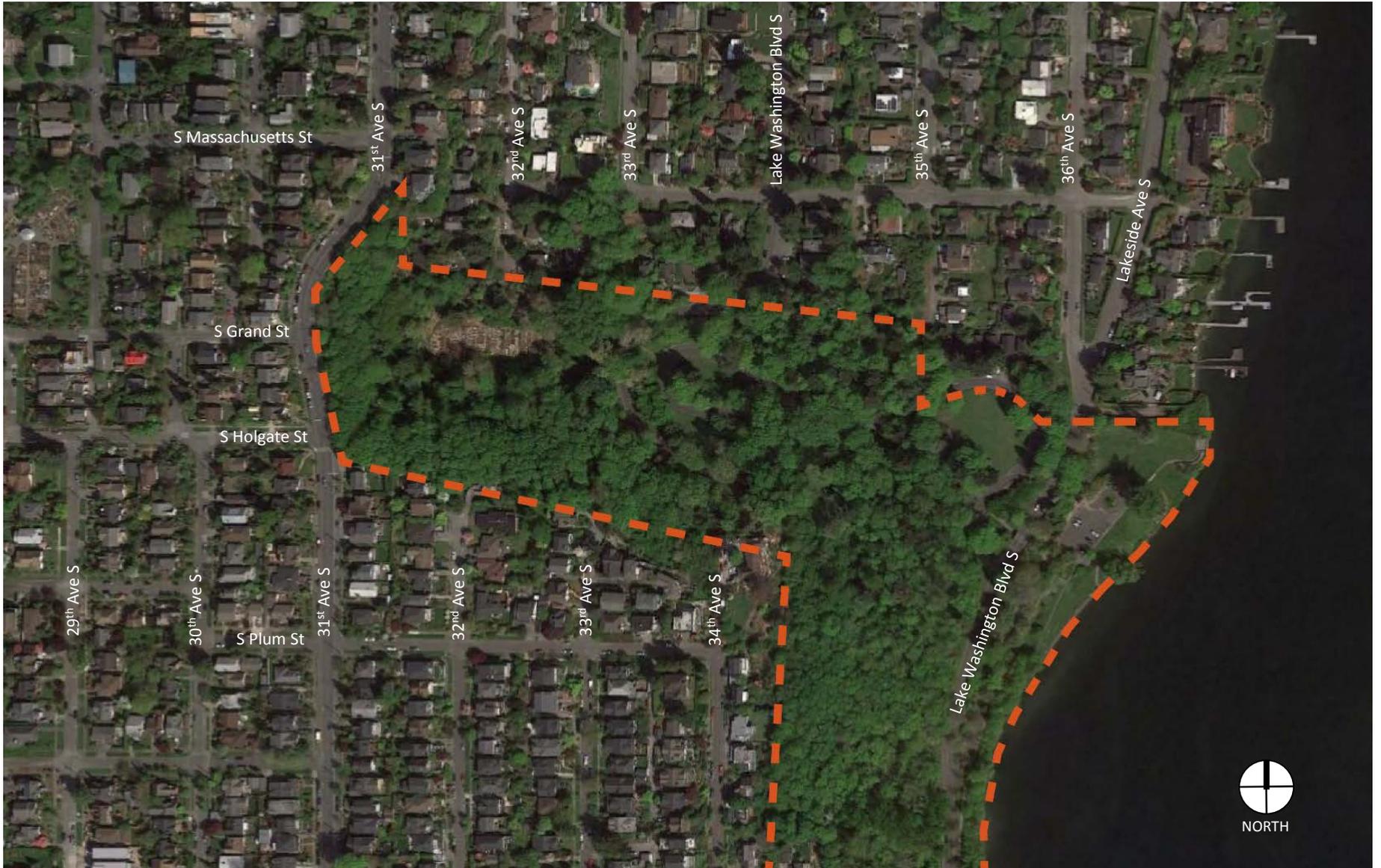
Invite and encourage park use

Functionality for all

Restore Olmsted vision

# Colman Park

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NORTH

# Scope Of Work

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## Project Site:

- “Upper” Colman
- “Colman Vista”
- “Upper slope”
- “West entryway”

## Borders:

- S Massachusetts St
- S Holgate St
- Colman Park P-Patch
- 31<sup>st</sup> Ave S



# Olmsted Design Principles

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UW, Seattle. Photo courtesy of collegemagazine.com



Back Bay Fens, Boston. Photo courtesy of Huffington Post.



Jackson Park, Chicago. Photo courtesy of University of Chicago



Central Park, New York. Photo courtesy of Alan McWain

# Upper Colman History

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**1910**  
Design completed

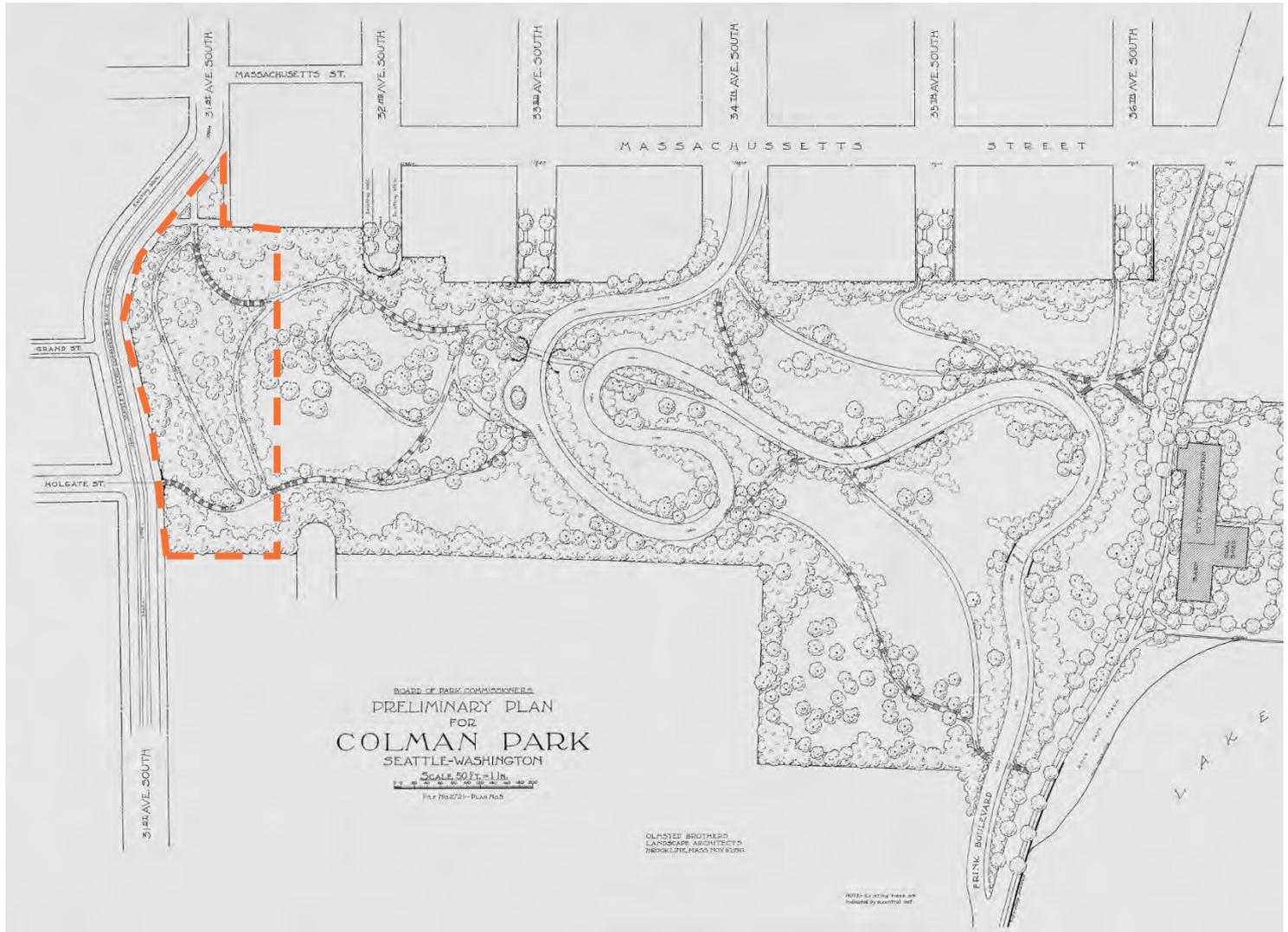
**1934**  
Parks nursery

**1974**  
P-Patch developed

**1978**  
Fence installed

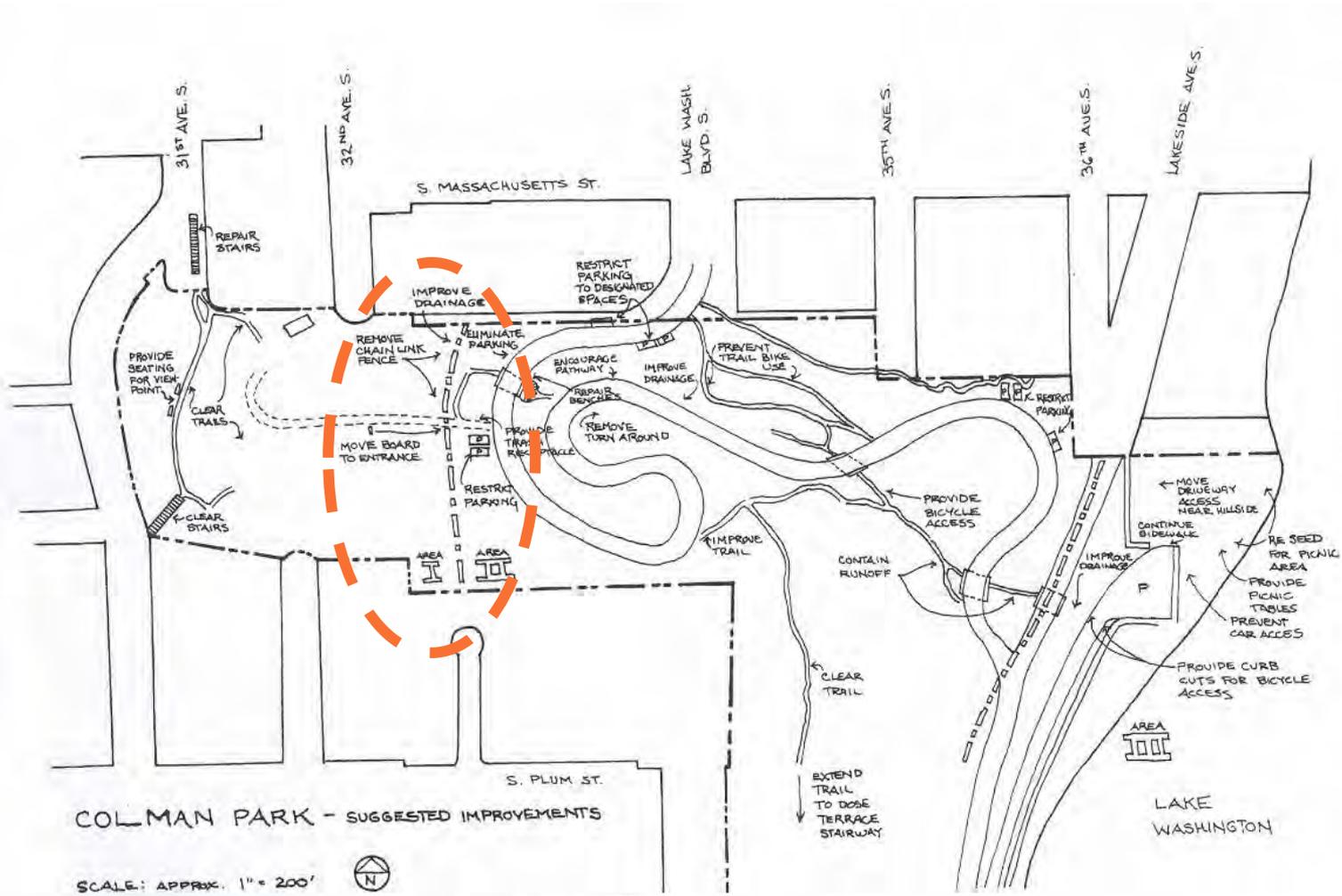
**1991**  
Tree pruning

**1997**  
Tree pruning request



# Park Access Barriers

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### COLMAN PARK - SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

SCALE: APPROX. 1" = 200'



- » EXISTING TRAIL
- - - OLD ACCESS ROAD
- REFERENCE AREAS' BOUNDARIES
- PRIMARY ACCESS FOR PEDESTRIANS
- OPTION B
- SECONDARY ACCESS
- BICYCLE ACCESS
- PARKING
- DRIVE WAY ACCESS

1999

# Upper Colman Over Time

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1991. Photo courtesy of Friends of Colman Park Vista.



1998. Photo courtesy of Friends of Colman Park Vista.



2016.

# Geotechnical Considerations

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## Regional Geology

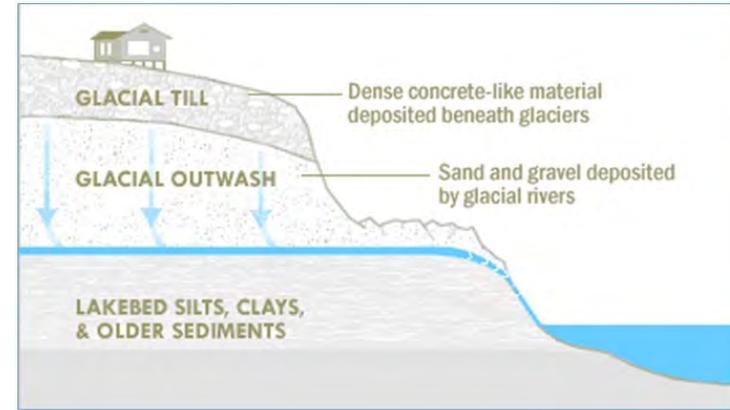
- Dense glacial till “cap”
- Dense advance outwash below “cap”
- Dense/hard older glacial deposits extending down below lake level

## Overall Stability

- No recent activity
- No significant settlement, tilting, or cracking of road and sidewalk

## Stormwater Management

- Curbs prevent direct runoff from road or sidewalk
- No daylighting pipes observed



# Slope Geotechnical Assessment

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## Topography

- Steep grades (3H:1V average; 1.5H:1V maximum)
- Very steep cut banks (near-vertical)

## Soils

- Colluvium and Topsoil: 1-2 feet thick
- Recessional Outwash: 1.5 to 3.5 feet thick
- Glacial Soils: medium dense to dense

## Stability

- No evidence of significant erosion
- No evidence of recent sloughing
- No evidence of recent slumping



# Conclusions/Recommendations

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## Tree Removal Considerations

- Overall stable soil conditions
- Existing deciduous trees provide shallow soil support
- Removal feasible if shallow root network is restored

## Hillslope Restoration

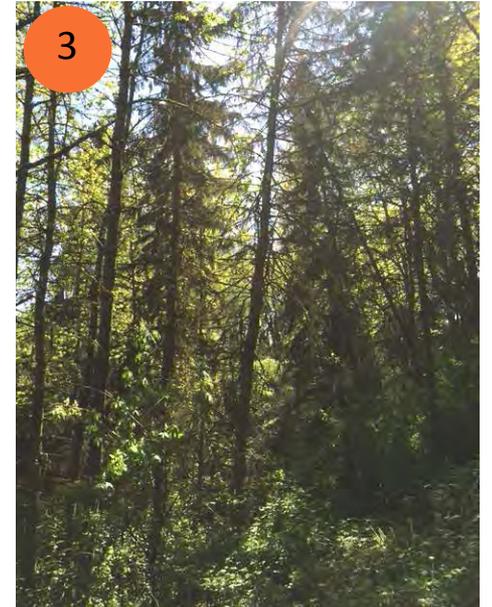
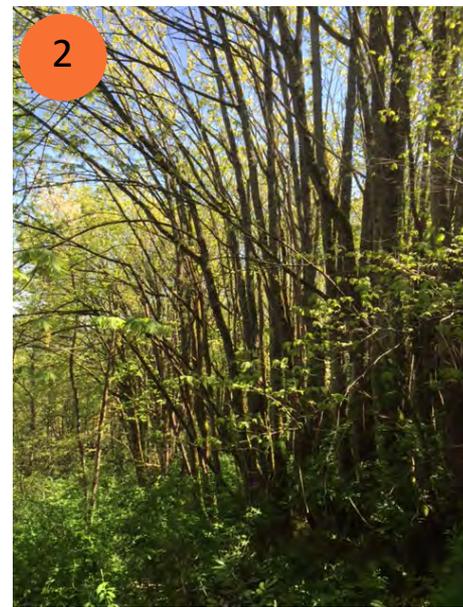
- Slope disturbance should be minimized during all work
- Bare/Disturbed areas should be protected with matting, wattles
- Slope should be replanted with groundcover immediately



Photo courtesy of nurserytrees.com

# Landscape Ecology

## COLMAN VISTA RESTORATION



- 1 Sheared hedge
- 2 Steep slope, big leaf maple stump sprouts
- 3 Ornamental trees and shrubs

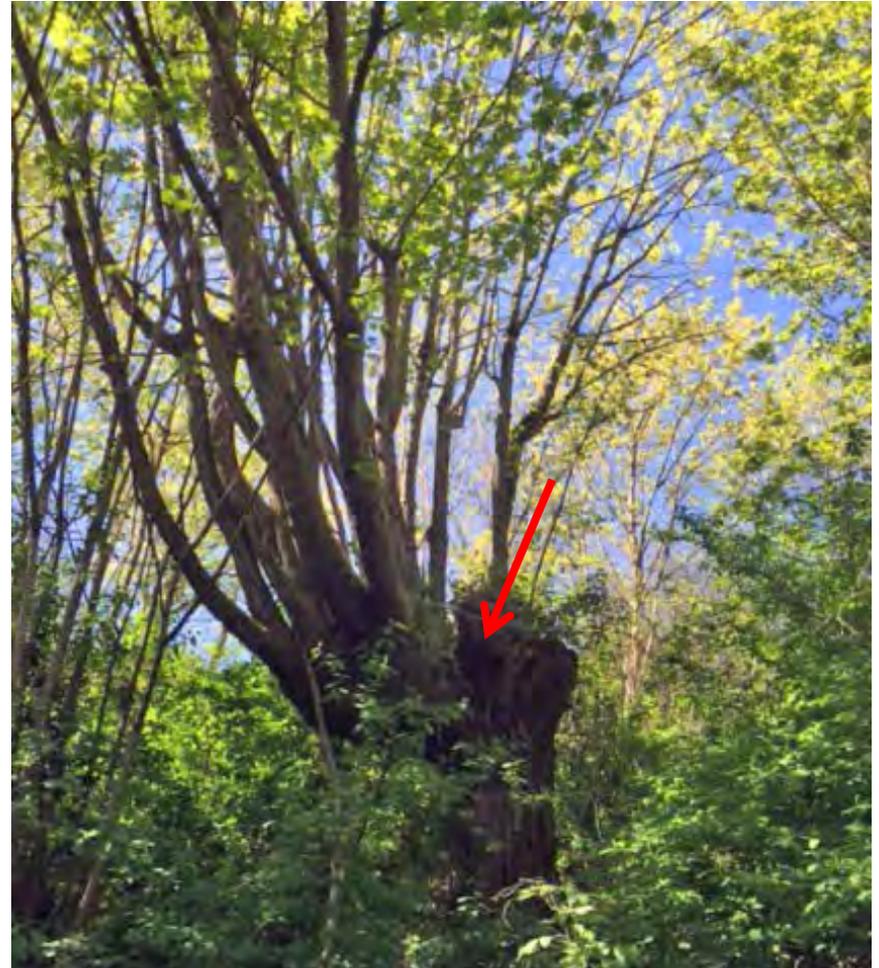
# Landscape Ecology - Overview

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## Stump sprout trees are unsustainable over long-term

- Poor forest structure
- “Stump sprout” architecture is inherently weak
- Basal trunk decay observed



# Landscape Ecology - Overview

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## Dense vegetation below the steep slope

- Mix of native, introduced, and invasive species
- Mature conifers and ornamental shrubs
- Observed recent plantings along trails



## Bare ground on steep slope

- Maple understory sparse and lacking in diversity
- Invasive species present
- Native tree and shrub seedlings present
- Evidence of restoration efforts: recent plantings of ferns and perennials



# Management Considerations

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## Tree assessment for health and structure

- Identify and prioritize management of problem trees

## Phased renovation

- Provides more optimal conditions for establishment of woodland understory

## Early intervention for undesirable “volunteer” plants

- Native as well as invasive seedlings will occur

## Update sidewalk border plantings

- Replace sheared hedge low-growing species



# Optimal Landscape Structure

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## Retain the best of existing vegetation

- Add adapted companion plantings of appropriate size and scale
- Incorporate wood and stumps into the landscape structure
- A sustainable approach to establishing a functional plant community

## Low-growing vegetation next to trails

- Reduced maintenance requirements

## Multi-layered woodland plant community for the steep slope

- Mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, ferns and perennials
- Shrubs that spread via underground shoots (Snowberry, Oregon Grape, etc.)
- Densely planted low-story and groundcover
- Combination of natives and compatible garden species



Example of trail edge with low growing vegetation, Washington Park Arboretum. Photo courtesy of Chris Pfeiffer.

# Thank You For Joining Us

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## Monday, June 6, 2016

- Review and discuss 3 design concepts for Upper Colman Park

## Wednesday, July 13, 2016

- Presentation of preferred, refined concept for Upper Colman Park

7:00 – 9:00 PM

## Guidelines For Participating In Public Process:

- Have fun
- Be non-judgmental; listen to understand
- Allow all voices to be heard
- Take no more than two minutes to speak to allow others the chance to be heard in our limited timeframe
- Limit distractions – silence or turn off your cell phone
- Agree to disagree
- Listen and empathize with differing perspectives
- Be respectful

